

# Read

1 Corinthians 3:10–23

Luke 6:46–49

# Consider

Do you think Paul knew the parable of the two foundations? We know that Paul was a follower of Jesus and an active preacher of the gospel message long before the teachings of Jesus were in written form. However, there can be little doubt that what Jesus taught circulated among the early Christians in oral form and that Paul would have heard those words. I think he knew the parable that is recorded at the end of Luke 6.

Foundations are important. When I read the parable of the two foundations I think of days long ago when our children were young and would create sand structures at the beach. That was an activity that could last a whole afternoon because even a little ripple of a wave would wash away what had been built and the kids would need to begin again. That can be great fun at the beach but Jesus says that without a proper foundation, the only future for any spiritual building is a great ruin.

When Paul is writing to the sisters and brothers at Corinth he tells them the only foundation that the church can build on is Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. He is the wisdom of God; he is the power of God. Leaders are important in the church, but loyalty to a human leader is not a foundation upon which the sanctuary of God can be built.

This coming Sunday we are going to take a look at what we are building, what we are building with, and what the foundation of that building must be. I hope you'll be watching.

The Rev. Dr. Bill Norman

# Pray

Here is a traditional prayer of confession to use in your private worship:

“Merciful God, I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. I have not loved you with my whole heart and mind and strength; I have not loved my neighbours as myself. In your mercy, forgive what I have been, help me amend what I am, and direct what I shall be, so that I may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.”

# D i v i n g   D e e p e r

When are the characteristics that make a 21<sup>st</sup> century church a great church? Why is Paul so insistent that the only foundation that can be used to build the church is Jesus?

In any church there are disagreements over programs and priorities. How do we deal with such disagreements without destroying the sanctuary of God?

At the end of the sermon Pastor Bill suggests the following:

*Commit this paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 3:16 to memory. Do you (plural) not know that we are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in us? Once you have this understanding of our identity clearly in mind, reach out to another part of your holy temple and tell that person how much it matters to you that together, along with all the rest of your sisters and brothers here at SCBC, you are the very dwelling place of the Spirit of God.*

Can you do this? Who are you going to contact?

How can we live closer **WITH** God in our lives?

How are we being **TRANSFORMED** to be more like Christ?

How is the Holy Spirit empowering us to imitate Christ in what we **DO** this week?